



For the Proprietor of
HONGKONG TELEGRAPH,
The and on behalf of
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The Hongkong Telegraph

Today's Weather: Moderate winds from an Easterly quarter.
Noon Observations: Barometric pressure, 1016.8 mbs., 30.03
in. Temperature, 70.2 deg. F. Dew point, 64 deg. F. Relative
humidity, 79. Wind direction East. Wind force, 7 knots.
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VOL. IV NO. 63

THURSDAY, MARCH 17, 1949.

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3 Months Imprisonment For Kwok Kwong

Kwok Kwong, former foreman employed in the electrical department of the PWD, who was yesterday found guilty by a jury on three charges of theft and three of falsification of documents, was this morning sentenced by Mr Justice Williams to three months imprisonment on the first count and one month on each of the other charges, the sentences to be concurrent, and to be served at the expiry of his present sentence for larceny of Government property.

Mr Justice Williams said he agreed with the jury that Kwok was not altogether to blame and that a considerable blame for his behaviour lies elsewhere.

Full report of the judgment appears on page 5.

Reds Take Over In Mandalay

Rangoon, Mar. 16.—Communist forces have taken over the administration of the sacred city of Mandalay which fell to the Karens on Sunday. It was officially stated here today.

Mandalay is 500 miles north of Rangoon.

The Communists are led by No Yan-aung, one of the "30 Comrades" who went to Japan in 1940 with the late Aung San.

According to today's statement, the Karens are grouped inside the famous Mandalay fort which, before the war, housed the palace of the old-time Burmese Kings.

The palace was destroyed during the Japanese bombing of Mandalay in 1942.

LOOTING & EXTORTION

Today's communique states that the Communists are encouraging open looting and extortion of wealthy people. In a large-scale action between Government forces and Karens in the delta district of Maubin, the communique continues, the Karens fired on naval boats and other river craft, but suffered 200 casualties when their fire was returned.

Karens trapped at Insein, ten miles north of Rangoon, have not yet replied to the Government's amnesty offer, the Associated Press was told officially today.

On Monday the Burmese Government promised a full amnesty if the Karens would lay

Soldiers Beat Up Theatre Employees

Shanghai, March 17.—A truckload of soldiers late yesterday beat up a score of theatre employees because an Army officer was refused free admission to a movie.

After the management of the International Cinema had refused to admit an officer and six of his friends without charge, the officer went away. A short time later, a truckload of soldiers arrived and began beating up the employees and wrecking theatre furniture and equipment.

The theatre watchman was reported in serious condition in hospital.

Damage to equipment was estimated at about 100,000,000 Gold Yuan.—Associated Press.

Europe Suffers An Attack Of War Jitters

FIVE DEVELOPMENTS CAUSE SPECULATION

London, Mar. 16.—Europe got a bad case of war jitters today. There is a feeling here and across the continent that a diplomatic crisis with Russia is in the making. The Western nations rushed defence plans so they would have some cards in their hand, if and when they have to sit down at the table with men from the Kremlin for a showdown.

No responsible statesman is predicting that armies would be on the march in the immediate future but there is an air of grimness in official statements and actions.

The developments were:

1. The five Western Union countries, Britain, France, Belgium, Holland and Luxembourg, set up a master defence plan that called for all of them to rearm as fast as possible and ask the United States to provide additional weapons. Mr Harold MacMillan, Conservative Member of Parliament, told the House of Commons that the hour of decision might come in July. He said if the world gets by that deadline there may be peace for six or seven years.

2. The Minister of State, Mr Hector MacNeill, charged in the House of Commons that Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary were violating the military and other clauses of the peace treaties with the acquiescence of the Russians. He said that Rumania and Bulgaria built armies larger than their peace treaties allow and Hungary is planning an expansion of its army over the treaty limits. He added that the three satellites suppressed political opposition and religious liberty in a "totalitarian plan to establish the Communist monopoly of thought."

3. Iran snapped back at the Russians with the statement

that the Soviet-Iranian treaty of 1921 should be scrapped and the declaration that Iran should cast its lot with the West by making a military alliance with the United States.

4. Russia said that she has already developed the atomic bomb and gone on to bigger things.

5. The Italian press carried reports that mysterious planes were parachuting what seemed to be war material in northern Italy.

Mr McNeill further said that the three ex-enemy countries—Rumania, Bulgaria and Hungary—declined to report on their troops strength "on the pretext that the peace treaties laid down that such requests should be made by three Allied heads of mission acting in concert."

He added, "In such circumstances His Majesty's Government are entitled to conclude that the ex-enemy governments, in collusion with the government of the USSR, are implementing military clauses of the peace treaties."

He said the United States and Britain tried to arrange meetings with Russia to discuss the treaty violations, but the Soviet representative refused to attend. He said the United States and Britain then alone asked the three Soviet satellites about their armed strength and each declined to report.—United Press.

BULGARIAN DENIAL

Sofia, Mar. 16.—The Bulgarian news agency tonight announced that it was authorised "categorically" to deny reports of troop concentrations on Bulgarian soil.

The agency said that the reports, which had appeared in certain foreign newspapers, were "without any foundation and the product of pure invention."

Military sources in Trieste tonight denied reports of incidents on the borders of the British and United States Zones of the Free Territory.

Local newspapers had published under banner headlines unconfirmed reports of alleged disorders in Yugoslavia and in the Trieste Zone under Yugoslav administration.

Yugoslav newspapers reaching Trieste gave no facts on the alleged disturbances, and said that "the Cominform campaign supports counter-revolutionary elements."

The people of Trieste were expecting major developments soon.

Will Try A New Flight



Police Stoned By Workers

Rome, Mar. 16.—The Chamber of Labour at Lecce, near Corvo in Northern Italy, called a two-hour general strike today in protest against incidents last night in which several were injured.

Police last night intervened to break up an unauthorized demonstration against the Atlantic Pact. They were stoned by several hundred workers.

Police then fired machine-guns in the air and "used tear gas" against the mob. In the melee, reports said, some 15 persons were injured, among them the Commander of the Carabinieri. Four were arrested.

The executive committee of the General Confederation of Labour, which is Communist-dominated, issued a "manifesto to the nation" declaring that the Pact would expose Italy to enormous dangers, not to defend national interest but to serve imperialistic and foreign interests.

The manifesto continued: "We want peace with everybody. We want war with nobody. Therefore we wish that Italy does not adhere to any military coalition, that it does not adhere to the Atlantic Pact and we proposed instead a pact of permanent peace for all countries without exception."—Associated Press.

New Palestine Crisis

ARABS SAID TO BE ON THE MOVE

Tel-Aviv, Mar. 16.—A crisis, with possible military implications, was today developing on the Central Palestine front. Israeli Foreign Office sources said they had information that Arab Legion forces were taking over frontline positions in the Iraqi-held "triangle."

According to these sources, this was "a violation of principle" of the Palestine truce as "Transjordan is deriving gains at the time when her forces should be at a standstill."

A spokesman said Israel had protested to Dr. Ralph Bunche, the Acting Mediator, against the taking over of the Iraqi-held triangle in Central Palestine by Transjordanian forces.

The spokesman said the protest was based on the contention it was a truce violation for one sovereign State to take over from another. It was understood here that Lieutenant-Colonel Abdullah El Tel, the Arab commander in Jerusalem, had officially informed the Israelis of the handing-over of the triangle.

CATTLE RAIDS

An Israeli spokesman said here tonight that if Arab cattle raids into Israeli territory continued on the Central Palestine front, Israel would be forced to take action.

The spokesman would not confirm or deny reports that Israeli troops were moving towards the Central front. He recalled that protests had been made several weeks ago to the United Nations about the "intolerable" situation on the central front, where there is a neck of Arab-held territory only 12 miles from the Mediterranean.

According to reliable sources in Tel-Aviv, Israel, told Dr. Bunche that it would be unable to recognize "any legal consequences which might follow such a truce violation."

Reports today said 30 head of cattle were "rustled" in a foray last night by Arabs whose tracks led into the Arab triangle.

Officials of the United Nations here were aware of the delicacy of the position. One official said: "All possible steps are being taken to avert a clash." Among these precautions, he said, were observer teams who made a closer check on military movements. A strict censorship is being maintained on the subject.—Reuter.

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EDITORIAL

The 1949-50 Estimates

THE Financial Secretary's detailed, but lucid report on the 1949-50 Budget made to the Legislative Council yesterday clears up a number of doubts originally raised when the abstract of expenditure was published earlier this week. Nevertheless, the overall picture as presented by Mr Follows is a little disquieting. It has been necessary to raise indirect taxation in order to balance the budget, and also to include in revenue, non-recurrent items such as the \$16,000,000 gift by the Imperial Government to help cover war losses, and \$2,431,480 of Colonial Development and Welfare grants. Against this it is pointed out that \$12 1/2 million dollars are being absorbed from current revenue which normally would be financed from loans. The Colony faces the need of meeting so-called abnormal expenditure, largely caused by defence and security requirements, and this is blamed for the heavily increased budget. But what is considered abnormal this year, may well become an inevitable recurrent figure and it is such a prospect that clouds the future financial position of the Colony. The truth is Hongkong cannot really afford a budget of \$180,000,000 and it is obvious that, among other things, a considerable amount of pruning in personal emoluments is required if expenditure is to be brought within Hongkong's paying ability. The public will echo the hope expressed yesterday by the Financial Secretary that the efficiency expert who is now in the Colony will be able to indicate whether the conduct of a public business really requires a pay-roll of nearly \$74,000,000. We imagine his answer will be a very firm negative, and he will have performed something of lasting value to Hongkong if he can

also show how substantial savings in this direction can be made without sacrificing the efficiency of that public service. The additional indirect taxation which Government seeks to impose in order to balance the budget will not seriously distress anybody, although the anticipated revenue therefrom—\$1,600,000—is somewhat disappointing. There will be general satisfaction if the manufacturers of aerated waters adopt the hint thrown out by Mr Follows and refrain from passing the extra tax on table waters to the consumer—a not unbearable hardship. Defence and security is the keynote of the budget, observed the Financial Secretary yesterday, and although it is difficult to accurately assess just how much of the Estimates is devoted to these considerations, it is obvious they represent an important part of the additional burdens which the exchequer has to bear in the coming financial year. Something in the region of \$26 million dollars appears to be earmarked for defence and security, with the warning that this is only the beginning and there will be heavier commitments in the future. "This can be regarded as a form of insurance," says officialdom, which is probably the most consoling way of looking at such an expenditure, but it cannot be said that the premiums are light. However, if it achieves the object of maintaining the security of Hongkong, the investment is placed beyond criticism. There are other aspects of the Estimates which call for further examination and analysis, but in the meantime the Financial Secretary is congratulated on performing a most difficult task in a courageous manner.

Local Irishmen Observe St Patrick's Day At Cenotaph Ceremony

St Patrick's Day was observed by the Hongkong society this morning with a short, but impressive ceremony at the Cenotaph.

At 11 o'clock, the President (Mr D.J.S. Crozier), accompanied by members of the Committee laid a wreath at the memorial in memory of Irishmen who died in both world wars.

For the occasion the cross of St Patrick was flown from the Cenotaph flagstaff.

The Society's wreath took the form of a green laurel harp with golden strings and a bunch of red poppies at the top corner. Among those present were the Vice-Presidents, Surg-Capt. T. W. D'Arcy, Mr. F. G. Maundrell, committee members, the Hon. J. P. Fehilly, OBE, Hon. J. B. Griffin, KC, Messrs W. Le Hart Sparrow, C. E. Terry R. E. Farrell, J. C. M. Grenham, B. Sheehan, J. B. P. Byrne, F. Shanks (hon. treasurer) and Denis G. Sherriff (hon. secretary).

Also present were Mr G.P. Murphy, Mr M.P. Keyes, Capt.

Morgan, Mr Insp. of Police T. Cashman, Mr V. O'Gorman and several ladies.

This evening a dinner-dance will be held by the St Patrick's Society in the Hongkong Hotel. The function will be preceded by a cocktail party, and all guests will receive sprigs of Shamrock.

The guest of honour will be the Governor, Sir Alexander Grantham.

The ground floor of the hotel as well as Gripps have been specially decorated for the occasion.

25,000 Bunches Of Shamrock Flown To New York

Limerick, Eire, Mar. 16.—Carrying 25,000 bunches of shamrock, a bag of peat and gallons of water (not whiskey) from the River Shannon for St Patrick's Day celebrations in the United States, the American Overseas Line's flagship, Eire, left Shannon Airport today for New York.

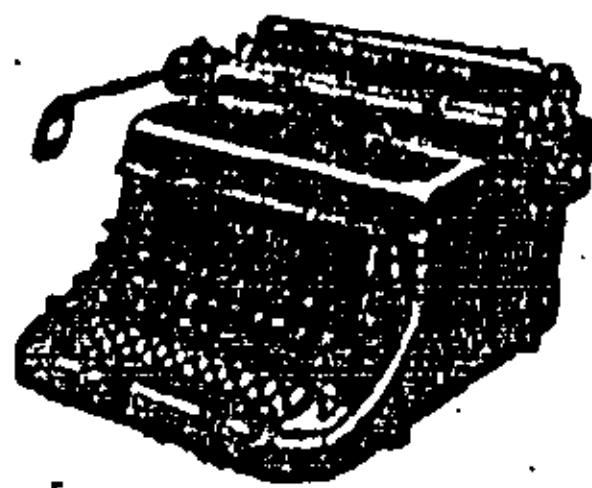
For some days the American Overseas Airline has been carrying Irish emblems to Boston, Baltimore, Chicago, Los Angeles and other United States cities for tomorrow's celebrations.

The biggest consignment was 2,000 shamrock button holes for the opening of the \$20,000,000 Shamrock Hotel at Houston, Texas.

Class-mounted shamrock plaques designed in Ireland are also going to Houston.

Other emblems being sent include shillelaghs, black-thorn sticks, recordings of Irish jigs and airs, and gifts for the Mayors of Boston and New York and other civic heads.—Reuter.

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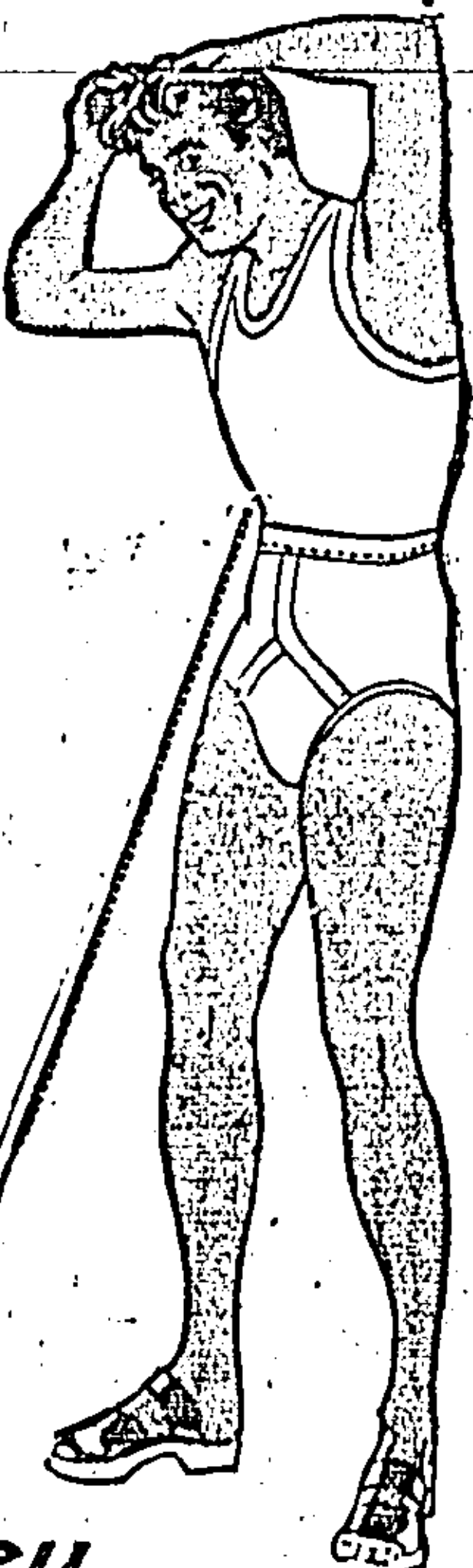
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WOMANSENSE



NEW BLOUSE AND SKIRT ENSEMBLES

By ROSE ROLLAND

DRESS designers are by no means constant in their use of the blouse, sometimes showing collections in which blouses planned like the tops of dresses are prominent, sometimes ignoring them altogether. Yet buyers for big stores say that the demand for blouses very rarely varies.

Of late, there has been a tendency to introduce a fluffy type which was last fashionable in the first decade of this century, but although lace insets and frills are attractive in some women, the plainly styled well-tailored blouse continues to have a popular appeal.

However, even these blouses vary considerably, one of the newest having long sleeves and small turn-over flaps at the neckline which take the place of a collar, others showing a trimming of fine tucks and collarless necks. All these are a good choice for the business girl or for country wear because they are easily kept in order.

Knotted Scarf

An attractive necklet or piece of jewelry can be worn with both the long sleeved blouse and with the collarless models, or a scarf can be knotted loosely round the neck and kept in place by a jewelled pin.

With blouses of this description almost any kind of tailored skirt looks well, but an individual touch can be given to this by means of a built up waist-yoke finished, perhaps, with a narrow belt or by an unusual belt with a novel buckle. The "padlocked fastening" on the belt is a case in point.

An odd tailored jacket in a bright colour contrasting definitely with the skirt is a good "buy" to complete this outfit.

One of the reasons why ensembles of this kind are so well worth planning is that the blouses are interchangeable and when one shows signs of wear it can easily be replaced by something else.

Paris Vogue In Necklaces

Necklaces and buttons, mainly in mother-of-pearl, are enjoying a great vogue in Paris. The necklaces are made of one, two or three rows of beads and are rarely twisted. Every bead is hand-made and usually coloured.

No fewer than 32 tones have been given names, such as "mon gray," "methyst vapour," "faded coralline," "red Chinese earth," "cascade blue," "root of emerald." The beads are iridescent, marbled and dotted, except when in elastomer or crystal.

They have irregular shapes, some oblong, some resembling leaves or branches of coral, larger beads alternate as motifs with series of smaller beads on short necklaces.

Sparkling rhinestones, of which whole necklaces were a feature last season, have not quite disappeared. Alternating as motifs with beads they make attractive and novel necklaces. These usually have large fastenings resembling jewels.

One necklace recently displayed was a single row of irregular big beads in mother-of-pearl marbled in lead gray alternating with oblong links in the same material.



Ingenious Bra Designs For New Low Necklines

By DOROTHY ROE

THE plunging necklines of 1949 have posed a pretty problem for figure-conscious girls.

How, they inquire anxiously, can you wear a bra with a dress whose neckline is cut down to the belt?

They needn't worry, however. Ruth Merzon and Ruth Fisk, who come up with an answer. The sprightly ladies, who have been supplying "falsies" to many of the flat-chested females of the U. S. for many years are now tackling the problem of the revealing neckline with all the scientific zeal of master engineers.

Says Mrs Merzon modestly: "I think we have everything under control. For the low, scoop neckline which comes almost to the point of the bust we have the half-bra, with a little band of net across the top to make everything secure. It is wired, strapless and built up from beneath to give that curve that is so important with the new necklines. Any girl may wear it without fear of a slip."

"A woman cannot afford to let herself go. If she doesn't have the proper curves for beauty, then she should get them. Even around the house she should think of her glamour. Many homes would be happier if the wife would pay attention to her figure. After all, we can all use a little glamour—and what is glamour without curves?"—Associated Press.

For the plunging neckline which is slit to the waist, Mrs Merzon also has an answer. It is a long-line strapless bra, also slit to the waistband, boned and wired to hold it in place.

Says she: "This is a type of bra that was worn many years ago; we made it then, and we can make it again. Since the accent this year is upon a beautiful bosom, women must not make the mistake of wearing the new low-neckline styles without bras. There is a type of support suitable for every neckline."

For the strapless evening gowns and sun dresses of the season, the strapless bra is, of course, the answer. Newest production of the Merzon-Fisk team is a bra made like two discs of padded satin, laced together by a narrow ribbon in front and elastic with adjustable laces in back. It is, of

course, wired to hold it in place. Says Miss Fisk enthusiastically: "Why, a girl can even play tennis in one of these and have everything under control. We do not have in separate pads in bras. They are too likely to slip out of place. After all, it is very embarrassing for a girl to realise suddenly that her bust pad has slipped up to her shoulder blade."

Women Students Of Cambridge Now Recognised

London Newnham, officially described as "Institutions for the higher education of women."

A "grace" recognising them as colleges in the University was accepted without opposition by a congregation of recent graduates. Their influence will be more marked in University management from now on as they may vote both in the Regent House and the Senate.

Women at Oxford University were awarded degrees in 1921. Since that year Cambridge women have taken their university examinations, their names have appeared in the public class lists, but they have received only a "title to a degree."

From meetings and discussions of these two bands of enthusiasts sprang the women's colleges of Girton and

PARADOXES

Many paradoxical situations arose because women were officially no part of the University. Sir Arthur Quiller-Couch, for instance, when Professor of English Literature, used to address a lecture room filled almost entirely with women as "Gentlemen."

Under the new rulings the only two jobs reserved for men are those of Proctor (this gentleman is responsible for discipline, with two "bulldogs" he patrols the town after dark) and of Esquire Bedell, the mace-bearer who walks before the Vice-Chancellor on ceremonial occasions.

A welcome branch of Senate House custom allowed Queen Elizabeth to address the congregation after the conferment of her degree. The progressive emancipation of women during the past century, the Queen said, was a story of "courage and vision."

"The presence of women in all branches of public life," she continued, "is nowadays an accepted and welcome feature of our daily life."

MUCH MORE

In referring to creative freedom which the Vice-Chancellor in his address called "the governing concept of university life," Queen Elizabeth said:

"I sometimes think we are too inclined to think of this freedom as a passive state in which we can do as much or as little as we like."

She felt freedom involved much more than this. She would rather describe it as a force, "a dynamic organism which enlivens everything it touches."

"In facing the demands of the material side of life today," the Queen said, "it is the duty of each one of us to guard the things of the spirit as eagerly as they are being challenged by those who are hostile."

ELECTRIC WANDS

American scientists are toying with the idea of arming housewives with electric wands to banish dust.

Only a small beginning has been made. This consists of a long and complicated study of the electrical behaviour of dust particles. Some details of the work were reported to the American Physical Society recently by Dr Wulf Kunkel of the University of California.

Dr Kunkel reported he had determined the electrical charges on dust specks as small as a 25,000th of an inch in diameter. Heretofore scientists have had difficulty in finding such small particles with electrical charges on them.

Tests on a specially prepared dust made of silicon, the main component of rocks and earth, showed about half the particles were negatively charged and the other half positively charged. These specks accumulated their electrical charges when they were stirred up by a current of air.

Whether dust specks at rest on a piece of furniture or a motor car carry electric charges has not yet been determined. Why they stick to surfaces as they do is not known. It may be because of electrical charges or some other factor.

Further experiments will be needed to determine whether electrical instruments would be effective against dust, Dr Kunkel said.

If dust can be so controlled it may be possible to devise electrical tools to make more effective use of such things as face powder and agricultural dusting chemicals.

Clothes Aren't a Problem If You Have No Figure Defects



Clothes are no problem to Movie Star Mona Freeman, who keeps her figure trim with regular exercise.

By HELEN FOLLETT

FORTUNATE is the woman whose weight and measurements are what they should be. She is likely to be in splendid health and, when it comes to shopping for frocks and coats, she has no problems at all. Alas, she is in the minority class. It would seem as if there is always something that is not exactly right; one is a bit too plump or a bit too thin.

Forget it unless you are burdened with a decided figure defect, in which case you can be put to rights if you will go to an establishment where figure normalising goes on. All you have to do is create an illusion of good lines by carrying yourself beautifully. Keep your backbone extended to the very limit when walking, sitting or standing. Don't let your chest sink in or your shoulders fall forward. Hold in your tummy; that practice alone will tend to reduce the waistline to trimness. It is

when the body says that the mid-section gets out of line. Don't forget that bodies show age as quickly as faces. If one does not move with alertness and carry oneself with spirit, the figure will become too mature or over-developed. Young girls who slouch along will regret in future years that they had not skipped lightly on their toes.

Here is an excellent exercise for keeping in form, to avoid the overcast waist measurement, heavy thighs, thickened calves.

Lie flat on your back in bed, hands under the buttocks for support. Lift the legs slowly until you are fairly standing on the back of your neck. While in that position, take three long deep breaths. Then lower the legs slowly. This exercise is good for your insides; by strengthening the muscles of the mid-section the internal organs will remain in their proper places and digestive motors will function normally.



Let's Eat

BY IDA BAILEY ALLEN

Midday Dinner, Spanish Style

WE'RE in Ybor City, really a part of Tampa! exclaimed our host, as we drove up to an old rambling three-story building. "And here we are at the Columbia, the most famous restaurant in the entire region."

He banged the heavy knocker on the huge double oak door. "Guess Angelo must be in the other section," he said. We followed as he led us through several small eating places and dining rooms. "These are, all part of this establishment," he said. "There's a dining room and meal to fit every pocketbook."

In one room we saw workmen in their overalls, enjoying big plates of Spanish bean soup and huge sandwiches. In another, whole families, including the tots, were enjoying their midday meal.

Finally we reached a large dining room. A spry, neat little gray-haired man greeted us.

Spacious Table

"Buenos dias," he said, "I am a cut section of garlic. Crisp and coarse-cut 1 medium-sized head of lettuce. Place in the bowl and toss with 1/4 c. French dressing mixed with 2 tsp. mayonnaise and 1/4 c. salt. Serve in individual bowls, top with shredded string beans, sliced pickled beet and sliced cooked carrot."

Chicken With Yellow Rice

A good way to make a small chicken serve 4 persons. This dish consists of 3 parts—chicken, sauce and rice. Chicken: Scrub a 2 1/2 lb. chicken with tepid water and mild soap; rinse, dry and cut in sections as for fricassee. In a large skillet put 3 tbsp. cooking oil, 2 tsp. margarine, 1/4 c. chopped onion, 1 crushed, peeled section garlic, 2 tsp. minced parsley and 1 1/2 tsp. salt. Add the chicken; brown-cook until browned; turn over.

Sauce: Put 2 tsp. margarine in a saucepan. Add 2 thin-sliced onions, 1 (additional) crushed section garlic, and 3 sliced green peppers (seeds included). Sauté until lightly browned. Add 1 (No. 2 1/2) tin tomatoes; simmer 30 min. and rub through a sieve. Pour over the chicken; cover, and simmer until nearly tender, about 35 min.

Yellow Rice: Meanwhile, cook the rice. To do this heat 1 tsp. cooking oil in a qt.-sized kettle. Add 1 1/4 c. dry long-grain rice, and cook slowly for 2 min., or until it looks cream coloured. Stir constantly. Add 2 1/2 c. chicken broth made from the feet, wing tips, neck and giblets. Cover and simmer 20 min. Then add 1/4 tsp. saffron. Arrange the rice, chicken and sauce in alternating layers in a large casserole. Cover and bake 25 min. longer, or until the rice is tender and fluffy. Border with peas. Decorate the centre with strips of pimento and sliced hard-cooked egg.

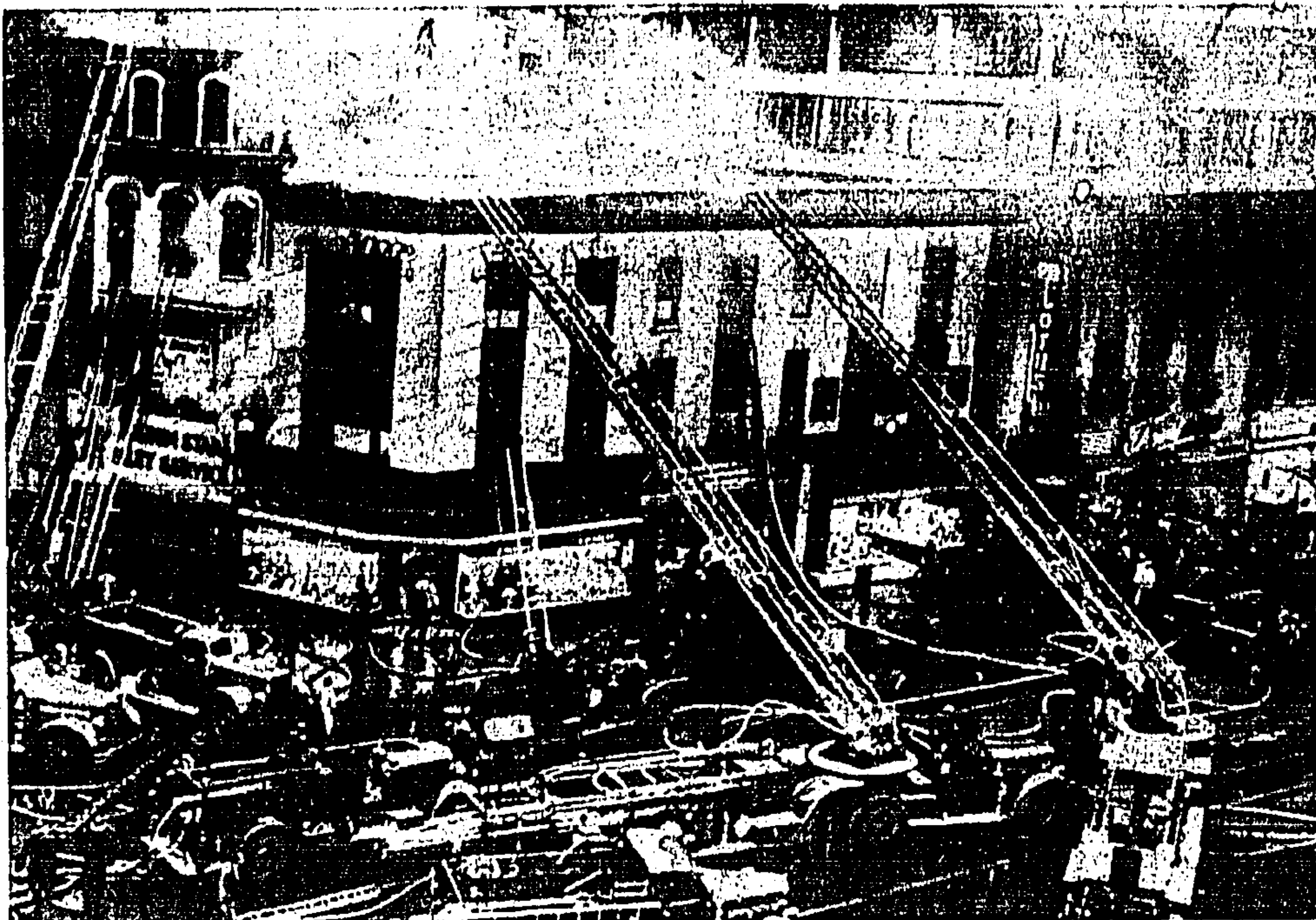
Trick Of The Chef

Put 1/2 pt. small oysters, clams or tinned shrimp between the layers of rice when preparing Spanish chicken.

WORLD NEWS IN PICTURES



UNTOUCHED BY ERP—This section of Rome is known as "Little Shanghai," and misery still exists for its inhabitants. The European Recovery Programme has not yet helped them for most of the \$601,000,000 received by Italy, in cash or credit, has gone to purchase grain, coal and petroleum.



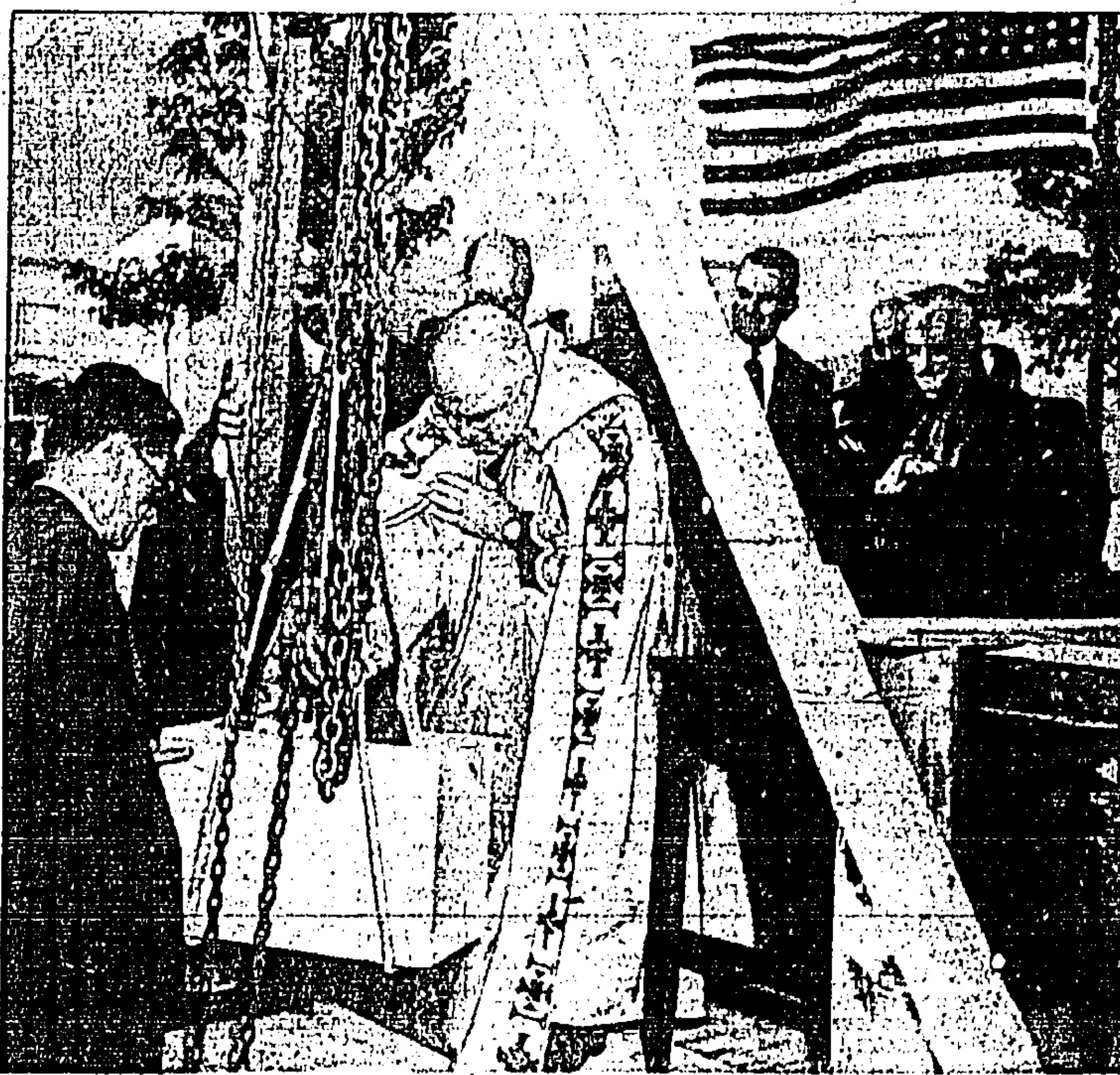
FIRE IN WASHINGTON—One person was burned and 10 others were led down extension ladders to safety as fire and smoke filled the upper floors of a shop in Washington. The rush of fire equipment, and several thousands of spectators, kept 60 policemen busy sorting out a traffic jam for an hour at the busiest time of the day in the American capital.



LUCKY MASCOT—Maureen Goodall and her lucky sailor mascot are cheering their favourite football team—Portsmouth. Their good wishes must have had the desired effect because the "Pompey" team beat Newport County by 3 to 2, and Maureen kept that happy smile.



TYPICAL?—Louise Fernandez Traube poses in New York for artist Paul Meltner. The portrait was requested by the Mexican government and it will be hung in Mexico's Palace of Fine Arts. Meltner found Miss Traube after a three-year search for the "Typical American Girl."



LAYING A CORNERSTONE—The Archbishop of New York, Francis Cardinal Spellman, lays the cornerstone for the library of Villa Nova University, in Havana, Cuba. Founded by Augustine Fathers from Villanova College in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the school is known as the Havana branch of the college.



FOUR WINNERS—Mrs Clayton Purdy of Stamford, Connecticut, displays her four prize-winning dogs in the pointer class at the annual Westminster Kennel Club show at Madison Square Garden, New York. Each dog was awarded a first prize—but in separate contests. Their owner appears as happy about it as the dogs.



FROM ITALY'S BOYS' TOWN—Monsignor John Patrick Carroll-Abbing, founder and director of Italy's Boys' Town, left, presents a plaque to Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York, right. The plaque was made by the Italian boys in the Boys' Republic of Santa Marinella. Judge Juvenal Marchisio, centre, President of American Relief for Italy, looks on approvingly.



CORONATION—Film star Richard Widmark crowns Mrs Chloë Blackmore "Queen of the Gam" in New Bedford, Massachusetts, at the premiere of a new film about whaling days. In the days when New Bedford sent its men to sea for whales in wooden ships, a "gum" was a seagoing celebration.



ALL SET—In Hollywood, starlet Laura Elliott dons a fur bathing suit in answer to the recent cold wave.

JOAN BLONDELL,
glamorous star says,
"Pink lipstick's the Hollywood
trick and 'Pink Queen' is
the perfect pink."



Tangee's NEW "PINK QUEEN"

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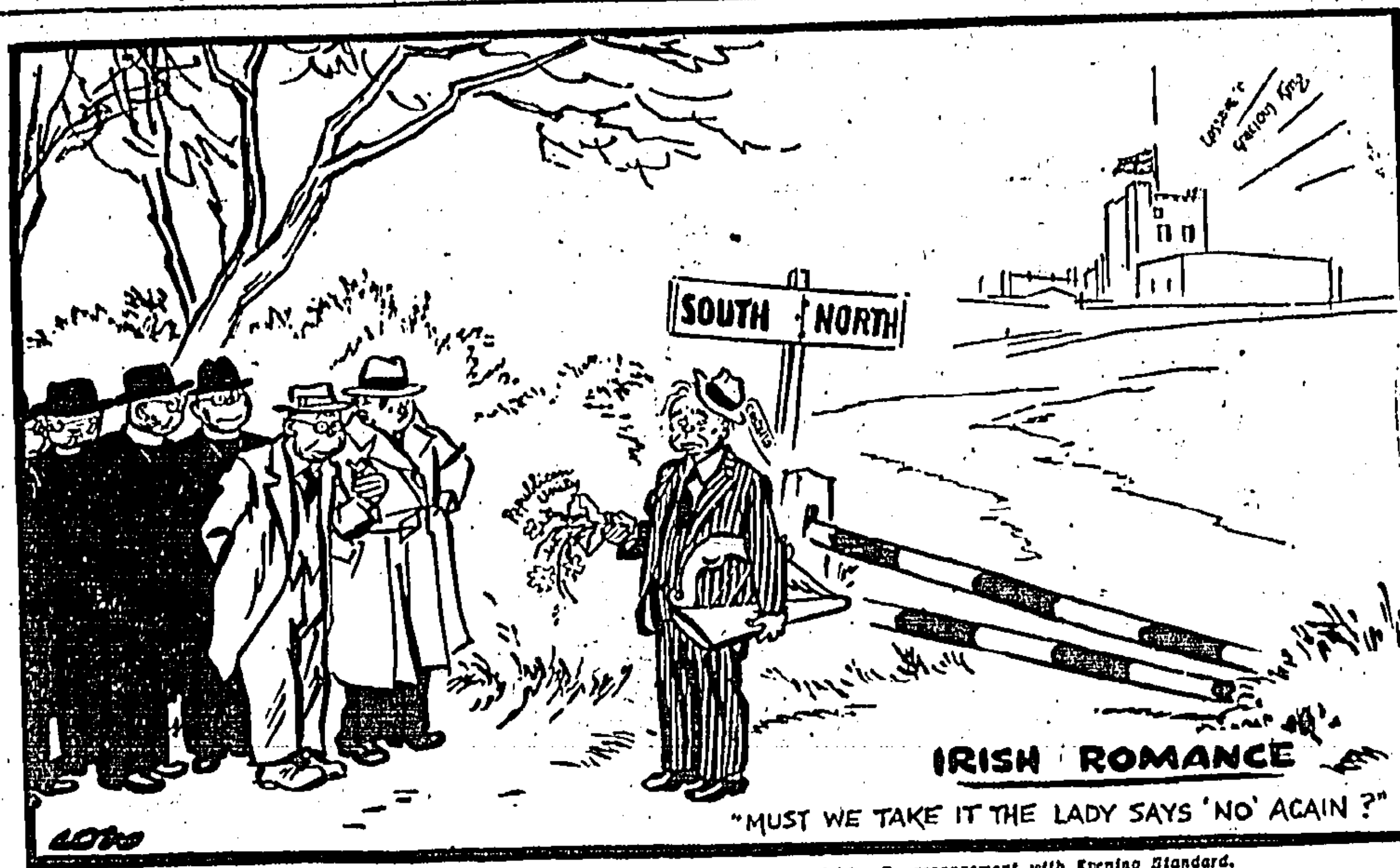
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WOMAN IN WHITE

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Directed by PETER DOVARGANES



IRISH ROMANCE

"MUST WE TAKE IT THE LADY SAYS 'NO' AGAIN?"

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FREDA UTLEY'S LIFE STORY...FOURTH INSTALMENT

LOST ILLUSION

It was a year when I realised there was social discrimination in Russia. The Soviet Social Register is written on the ration cards of the favoured Communist bureaucracy—the new Russian nobility. I learned of the exclusive shops catering to privileged high Party officials which sold foodstuffs and clothing unobtainable elsewhere, or only to be purchased on the "free market" at exorbitant prices.

Other closed distributors with less attractive wares were opened later for lesser lights in the social hierarchy.

Next came the OGPU shops. Then, Gort A, for "high officials"—all Party men—and for a very few specially favoured scientists and engineers. Next, Gort B, for the "middle class"—that is, Party men of lower rank and highly qualified non-Party specialists.

In addition there were well-stocked shops for the Red Army officers. There were also the various closed distributors for the factories producing capital goods.

Only top-flight Communists were favoured by ample supplies of food and clothing. This device of Stalin's was designed to keep Party men loyal to him personally.

Any deviation from the Party line involved expulsion from the Party and the loss of these precious food supplies. It also meant the withdrawal of many other privileges awarded in kind and not in money—use of a motor car, the pick of housing accommodations, special hospitals, and an exclusive medical service reserved for the new aristocracy alone.

The closed distributors also enabled the government to discriminate in favour of the aristocracy with the scarcest goods, such as fruits, fresh vegetables, cocoa, chocolate, butter and eggs.

This system had the additional advantage of permitting the Soviet Government to tell the world that Communist Party members never received salaries higher than the Party maximum of 3,000 roubles.

Actually, the salaries of high Communists were twenty times as much as those of the non-Party specialists, who were supposed to be getting more, and those of the skilled workers, who were supposed to be paid about the same as the Party functionaries.

I soon ran into the snobishness of the Communist Party members. Friends from London, who had known my husband and me, would ask me to parties without him, because he was not a member of the Communist Party. Or, if invited and he went, he was made to feel a social inferior.

Led The Parade

In Soviet Russia you were de-classified if you married outside the Communist Party. A woman was debarred from entry to the "best society" if she were not either herself a member of the Party or married to a member.

As I had already perceived in Japan, it was the wives of the Bolsheviks who led the parade in the degeneration of the Party and showed so obviously the characteristics of the nouveau riche society then coming into being.

Social Rank

Jane Tabrisky, who had been a member of the British Communist Party since 1926, was sixteen and secretary of the London University Labour Party when I was chairman, arrived in Moscow in November. Her arrival in Moscow was my greatest joy while waiting for Arcadi in the autumn of 1930. She was an old and real friend, to whom I could speak freely—and in Moscow this was a blessing above all others.

Terrible, Moving

JANE and I learned rapidly. Collectivisation of agriculture, and the Five Year Plan in Four Years, were no longer matters of abstract theory. They had become painful realities. They meant starvation for the majority.

Collectivisation and industrialisation meant the formation of a privileged aristocracy, as cut off from the masses of the people by the conditions of their lives as the nobles of the ancient regime in France.

It was a terrible and moving reality, involving untold suffering for millions, whom we could not regard as human guinea pigs in a social

laboratory, as did the "Friends of the Soviet Union" abroad.

We knew why there was famine in Russia, and why had led up to the liquidation of the Kulaks, with its attendant cruelty and dislocation of the country's economy. In 1927 and 1928, when I had received my first false impression of Soviet Russia, there had already been an economic and political crisis.

The New Economic Policy, allowing limited free enterprise, which had brought prosperity before Stalin stopped it, had also almost led to the revival of capitalism in Russia.

By 1926, nearly two-thirds of the grain on the market was being sold by a mere six percent of the peasants, the Kulaks. A new "petty bourgeoisie" of shopkeepers, restaurant operators and small industrialists had cropped up. The state could no longer lay its hands on grain to export even a small quantity to pay for importation of machinery.

The peasants created their own self-subsistent economy outside the control of the Soviet state. The working class in the state industries suffered and the elected local Soviets came more and more to represent the interests of the peasants. Stalin in 1928 was still going with the tide.

Not Concerned

ANXIOUS to secure his own power by enlisting the support of the right wing of the Party against Trotsky, he contemplated a forty years' tenure of his land. As against this "denationalisation" of agriculture and stagnation of industry, which led the USSR to becoming a semi-capitalist country, not at the point of the bayonet which Stalin was later to enforce, but gradual collectivisation by government grant of credits and machinery to these poorer peasants who would voluntarily join a collective farm. This could, however, be accomplished only if the richer peasants were heavily taxed to finance the collective

farms and to enable the state to import machinery for manufacture of farm implements, for erection of power stations and for industrialisation.

Heavier taxation of the Kulaks would not only stunt the growth of this new capitalist class, but would enable the government to produce more manufactured goods, lower prices, and break the strike of the peasants. The farm popula-

tion responded to the shortage of industrial goods by working less, consuming more of their own produce, and disposing of the rest to the Kulak middlemen, who, instead of selling it to the government, used it to support local handicraft industries. But, said the right opposition, if you bear down too hard on the Kulaks, we shall have war between town and village.

Stalin had little theoretical knowledge, and in any case was not in the least concerned with the rightness or wrongness of a policy. He wanted absolute power, and he saw his way to get it by crushing Trotsky and his left opposition with the aid of Bukharin and the right wing, and then to eliminate the right opposition by pursuing a policy far more left than Trotsky's. The final result was that the worst features of the policies of both sides were adopted by Stalin as the Party Line.

Trotsky's Prophecy

STALIN brought about super-industrialisation, which was accomplished by the destruction of the elements in the Bolshevik Party most capable of carrying out such a policy; by accumulation of capital for industrial construction, by robbing the peasants, and by the liquidation of the technicians and administrators of the new industries function efficiently.

By 1928 the truth of Trotsky's prophecies had become so obvious that he and his followers were not to be eliminated if he were not to take Stalin's place. The decreasing food supplies in the towns were convincing the proletariat that Trotsky was right in predicting the return of capitalism. The workers of Leningrad were behind Trotsky almost to a man. The Kulaks were holding up food for the cities to force a rise in the price of grain. Trotsky and the left opposition leaders were arrested by the OGPU—which Stalin controlled—and imprisoned or exiled.

Until Too Late

STALIN was able to do this because he had the support of Bukharin, Tomsky, Kallinin, and the rest of the right wing of the Party. These men had no conception of Stalin's real intentions until too late. They were sincere, and none of them appeared anxious for personal power.

None dreamed that Stalin was planning a civil war, far more bloody than anything Trotsky had desired and to be carried out in such a fashion as to destroy all hope of socialism in Russia.

(Copyright. To Be Continued Tomorrow.)

By Ernie Bushmiller

NANCY

Dark Plot



Sefton Delmer's NEWSMAP

The sack comes to Miss Strong

THE woman is an American Left-wing writer named Anna Louise Strong, and she lives in Moscow.

Or, rather, she did until a little while ago, when she was suddenly arrested by the M. V. D. secret police and denounced publicly as a "notorious American spy and Fascist." She was bundled across the frontier.

General Borodin (real name Michael Markovitch Gryzenberg), the old party comrade whom Lenin had sent to China way back in 1922 to lead the Communist revolution there.

Borodin secretly ascribed his failure in China to Stalin, who, he said, had not paid sufficient respect to Chinese desires for independence, and had insisted on their complete ideological and political subservience to Moscow.

At the same time Moscow's English language newspaper, the Moscow News, of which Anna Louise Strong had been one of the editors since its earliest days, was closed down without notice.

Now all this is not only a misfortune for the ageing Anna Louise, who loses a comfortable rouble income from her many books published by the Soviet Union. It is also a surprise for those of us who know her.

For this tall, bulky, untidily built woman, with the straggling grey hair and fanatical eyes, has always been a zealous champion of the Soviet Union and an unquestioning worshipper of Stalin.

The Soviet propagandists seemed to be well aware of this. Whenever they required a Western reporter to see things their way, and reassure a suspicious bourgeois world—as for instance, in Soviet occupied North Korea—their choice would as often as not include Anna Louise. Now the reliable Anna Louise is a Fascist and a spy.

The answer to the mystery is political and highly relevant. Anna Louise's boss on the Moscow News was

"She herself has no inhibitions about her outside. I remember an occasion during the siege of Madrid in the Spanish Civil War, when the two of us—I am no strategy rater myself—had to throw ourselves for cover into a shallow and hopelessly inadequate roadside ditch. 'I trust,' said Anna Louise acidly, as the machine guns spat, 'that there is none of me sticking out.'

Exit M. Blanc

A YOUNG Frenchman is the second figure on my newspaper's history page this week. His name is Aristide Blanc. He is 29 years old, lives in Paris, was editor of a clandestine resistance newspaper during the German occupation, and, like Anna Louise in Moscow, has just lost a job.

Until a half month ago he was the publisher of France Soir, the highest and most widely circulated evening newspaper in Paris.

Now ordinarily the dismissal of a publisher would not make history. But it does in this case. For Blanc's dismissal is part of that silent counter-revolution now in progress in France.

It represents the first step towards the "assertion of its influence of a new power in the French newspaper world—the big co-operative newspaper distribution enterprise known as Hachette.

They will try to spread the Communist world revolution all over the Pacific basin and through Burma, India, and the Middle East to the Mediterranean.

But in the long run it is possible that the fears of Borodin will justify themselves. Stalin's rule may prove unacceptable to the Chinese. They may yet once more revolt against the Russians.

But I am not very hopeful.

In February 1947 Hachette, restarted after the war, as a co-operative enterprise, found that a number of Paris newspapers were in financial difficulties.

Hachette offered to underwrite some of the newspapers' bills of exchange on condition that they were allowed to purchase shares in the newspapers concerned. So Hachette gained control of France Soir.

At a meeting of France Soir shareholders last month M. Blanc was ousted mainly by a vote of Hachette nominees.

The Paris Press Federation is fighting his dismissal.

I have no idea what the outcome of Aristide Blanc's case will be. But it is important to you and me. For it will matter a lot in the next few years who controls the newspapers and their policies on the other side of the Channel.

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UN Inquiry Into NEI

Australian Defence Statement Expected

Canberra, Mar. 16.—Political observers here thought today that a statement on Australia's defence position in relation with other countries would be made soon.

They based this view on a statement by the Prime Minister, Mr. J. B. Chifley, in the House of Representatives today, in reply to the deputy leader of the Opposition, Mr. E. J. Harrison (Liberal), who alleged that some countries lacked confidence in Australia's ability to keep secrets.

Mr. Harrison quoted press reports that in some instances Australian officers sent to defence talks had been carefully screened.

Mr. Chifley said it would not be long before Mr. Harrison would be made to realise that what he said is completely incorrect.

"I don't propose to elaborate on that. I am satisfied to wait in a realisation that the truth will come out," the Prime Minister added.

The House of Representatives was debating the Science and Industry Research Bill, which brings certain scientists under the secrecy provisions of the Public Service Act.

A statement similar to the Prime Minister's was made by the Defence Minister, Mr. J. J. Dedman, winding up the second reading.

"Before long, certain events will take place and Mr. Harrison will be shown to be possessed of physical ignorance in regard to defence talks," Mr. Dedman said.

Mr. Dedman described as a "downright lie" a suggestion by Mr. John Lang, of the Labor Party, that Mr. Chifley went to London last year because of British doubts about Australia's security.—Reuter.

Governor At Premiere

His Excellency the Governor and Lady Grantham last night attended the gala premiere of the new British ballet, "The Red Shoes" at the Queen's Theatre.

The proceeds of the performance went to the Hongkong Family Welfare Society.

The Governor's party included General & Mrs. Yee, Mrs. C. Rogers, Dr. Gustmann and Commander de Costa. They were received by Dr. & Mrs. Tsung (Chairman) and Mr. & Mrs. J. D. Clague (the Hon. Treasurer of the Family Welfare Society).

Other who brought parties included Sir Leslie & Lady Gibson, Mr. & Mrs. Maclellan, Mr. & Mrs. A. Morse, the Hon. P. S. Cassidy, Hon. D. J. Sloss, Hon. M. M. Watson, the Hon. V. J. Kenniff, Lady Collins, Mr. & Mrs. Calverat, Mr. & Mrs. Sidney Lines, Mrs. Stanton, Mr. & Mrs. Goodban, Mrs. Hurrell, Mr. & Mrs. Latimer, Mrs. N. V. Croucher, Mr. & Mrs. R. Bruce, Dr. & Mrs. Coombes, Mr. B. Bernacchi, and Miss Elma Kelly.

Novel Dustbins Rejected

Canberra, March.—Rubber garbage bins to withstand being around by Canberra garbage men have been officially axed.

An Advisory Council suggested rubber bins would bounce—silently—when garbage men flung them to the ground, especially in the early morning hours when urbanites were trying to sleep.

Despite Council members' pleas that they would last longer than metal bins, the Council decided that such receptacles were "not necessary."—United Press.

Radio Hongkong

H.K.T. 6. Programme Summary: 6.01, Children's Half Hour "Pirates Creek" by Jean Marsh (NBCS); 6.30, La Revue de France (Studio); 7.00, World News and News Analysis (London Relay); 7.15, Interview with Frank Hitchcock—An Unexpected Visitor (Hongkong Studio); 7.25, "Down Beat Disc"—Presented by Paul Hart (London Relay); 8.00, "Radio Hongkong"—A Talk for St. Patrick's Day by James Stephens (London Relay); 8.15, Short Irish Concert with John McCormack as Guest Artist (London Relay); 8.30, Concerto No. 2 in G Minor, Op. 63 (Prokofiev), Jascha Heifetz (Violin) and Boston Symphony Orchestra; 9.00, "Hongkong Dances To"—Eddie Guzman and His Orchestra, from the Hits Ballroom, North Point; 9.15, "Picture Parade" (NBCS); 10.00, Radio News (London Relay); 10.15, Weather Report; 10.30, "Thursday Serenade"—A Programme of Continual Music (London Relay); 10.45, Mixture Melodies—Vocal and Instrumental (NBCS); 11.00, Country Dance Party—Traditional Dances and Folk Songs (NBCS); 11.15, Weather Report and Close Down.

Atrocity Charges Urged

Lake Success, Mar. 16.—Norway today suggested a United Nations investigation of alleged atrocities in Indonesia as the Dutch warned of long-continued warfare if the Republican leaders on Banka held out against Dutch-backed plans for new negotiations.

Dr J. H. van Royen, Dutch representative in the Security Council debate, urged the Indonesians to reconsider their stand.

The Republic, stepping up its guerilla activities in the East Indies, is adamant on two points:

1. It will not attend the Dutch-proposed conference at the Hague as long as the Dutch refuse to comply with the Council decree calling for the immediate return of the Republic to Batavia.

2. It will not take part in preliminary talks in Batavia, proposed by Canada and China, aimed at settling the deadlock.

Dr van Royen, whose government agreed on Monday to attend the talks, asked the Indonesians to follow suit.

"We realise implementation of their suggestions will require concessions from both parties," he said.

Norway's proposal for an inquiry into alleged atrocities followed repeated charges of this sort made by both sides. The Norwegian representative, Mr Arne Sundt, suggested that, without waiting for the setting up of a new group, the Council might want to call on some already existing United Nations body or some outside international agency to hold an immediate investigation of the charges.

Norway, together with France, joined the growing list of Council members supporting the Chinese-Canadian plan to have the United Nations Commission on Indonesia open new negotiations.

It was hoped that these talks would open the door to the Dutch-proposed Hangzhou conference to settle the whole dispute.—United Press.

Red Radio Attacks General Ho

Nanking, Mar. 17.—The North Shensi Radio last night described Nationalist China's Premier, General Ho Ying-chin, Acting President Li Tsung-jen and General Chang Chih-chung as "but henchmen of Chiang Kai-shek, who is pulling strings behind the scenes."

"Their show of so-called bargaining for peace is a screen to actually resist real peace," the radio claimed.

In its first comment on the new Premier, the radio said General Ho's appointment had been delayed while the approval of the Generalissimo—the reactionary Kuomintang leader and No. 1 War Criminal—was obtained.

Acting President Li Tsung-jen is making every effort to get Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek to co-operate in making a show of bargaining for peace to impress the Chinese people, the radio went on.

It then claimed "American imperialists and General Douglas MacArthur" were behind the movement for the independence of Taiwan, and it could be retained for a last desperate struggle of the Kuomintang reactionaries, and used as a springboard to launch an attack on liberated China.

It said "the People's Liberation Army will liberate Taiwan, Hainan and every inch of Chinese territory completely."—Reuter-AAP.

Hair Ruined By Permanent Wave

Birmingham, Mar. 16.—A 41-year-old woman, whose hair was to have stood up on curls like bristles after a permanent wave was awarded damages totalling £300 against a Birmingham hair-dresser today.

The woman's sister told the judge that her sister's hair "was unnatural, in the same way as yours is."

"I cannot help it—I have to wear this thing," replied the judge.

Giving judgment he said the permanent wave was not carried out "with that degree of skill which a person has a right to expect."—Reuter.

MR N. O. C. MARSH RETIRING

The departure shortly from the Colony, on retirement, of Mr N. O. C. Marsh, Chairman of the Board of Directors, was announced at the meeting of the Hongkong Electric Company Ltd held at the P. & O. Building this morning. Mr Marsh will be leaving the Colony in the ss Canton on April 15 for the United Kingdom.

Bovin To Broadcast

London, Mar. 16.—The Foreign Secretary, Mr Ernest Bevin, will broadcast on the Atlantic Pact on Friday at 9.15 p.m. GMT in the Home Service of the B.B.C. A broadcast on recruiting which he was to have made tomorrow, has been postponed.—Reuter.

SIDE GLANCES By Galbraith



"But, father, he's going to be a sensational success—he's so smart he knows how many elephants Hannibal used crossing the Alps!"

HK Electric Company's \$5,000,000 Profit

EFFECT OF WAR YEARS ON GENERATING EQUIPMENT

Speaking at the annual meeting of the Hongkong Electric Company Ltd, held at the P. & O. building this morning, Mr N. O. C. Marsh, Chairman of the Board of Directors, said that for the third year in succession it was his duty to emphasise that their generating station was still operating on pre-war plant which had suffered enormously from non-maintenance during the war years.

The technical skill and ingenuity of the engineers had enabled the heavy load to be carried thus far and he hoped that they would have no major breakdown before the new plant was in commission.

A profit of \$5,018,986.02 on the year's working was disclosed in the report.

Addressing the meeting, the Chairman said:

The Report and Statement of Accounts for the year ending December 31, 1948, having been in your hands for the prescribed period I will adopt the usual procedure and, with your permission, will take them as read. You will observe that after providing for the Interim Dividend a sum of \$4,441,498.04 remains for appropriation; your Directors recommend that this should be allocated as follows:—

Pay a Final Dividend of—\$1.70 less tax on 2,100,000 shares absorbing \$3,213,000.00
Replacement Reserve \$500,000.00
transfer to General Reserve \$360,051.91
and carry forward to 1949 \$368,446.13

which I trust will meet with your approval. These recommendations have been incorporated in the accounts as presented.

Regarding the transfer of \$500,000 to Plant Replacement Reserve, I would like to comment on the necessity for this account. The present depreciation of our fixed assets is based on original cost and if price levels of plant and buildings remain unchanged then the amount of reserve which we accumulate during the life of the asset will be sufficient for replacement when the old one becomes obsolete.

INCREASED COST

At this time, however, a considerable change has taken place in money values—for instance, generating plant which averaged £3 per kilowatt before the last war is now in the region of £10, and it is clear that on our present depreciation rate we can only replace one third or less of the asset.

In other words, if we were to rely only on our normal depreciation provision, we should fall by a large amount to maintain the fixed assets necessary to continue our present scale of operation. It is unlikely that prices will fall to such an extent that depreciation reserve on the basis of the original cost value will be adequate. It is essential, therefore, that on our present depreciation rate we can only replace one third or less of the asset.

Turning to the other side of the Profit & Loss Appropriation Account it will be noted that, despite the fact that our unit sales increased by 25 per cent, this was due entirely to rate reductions of 27 per cent lighting and 20 per cent power since early 1947.

There is also an amount of \$504,753.80 transferred from the provision for Corporation Tax. As stated last year, the final assessment by the Inland Revenue Department had not been made at the time last year's accounts were presented. During the interim the assessment has been completed and the over-provision written back.

I think there is little that calls for comment in the Balance Sheet. It will be seen that the market value of our investment in your hands at the end of the year is an appreciation of 30.8 per cent over book value.

"HARDY ANNUAL"

I must however refer to what would appear to be growing into a "hardy annual"—War Losses. As has been stated before, your Directors have in mind the liquidation of these losses but until we have some knowledge of what may be expected in the way of reparations it is felt that the account should stand for a further period.

The note on the Balance Sheet showing £650,000 as commitments for plant and materials covers two new boilers and two new turbines, together with the re-blading of a third turbine and ancillary gear. We are also in preliminary negotiation for a third boiler and steelwork for the boiler house extension, the cost of which is not included in the commitment figure.

It is with regret that I have again to report that there has been further delay in deliveries, and it is not now expected that the first new boiler will be in commission before the late Autumn of this year. For the third year in succession it is my duty to emphasise that your generating station is still operating with pre-war plant which suffered enormously from non-maintenance during the war years.

The technical skill and ingenuity of your Engineers has enabled the heavy load to be carried thus far and I hope that we shall have no major breakdown before the new plant is in commission.

The industrial load has been restricted during the peak load period and I cannot hold out any hope of the restrictions being lifted before the Autumn, and even that date may be optimistic. All consumers were warned at the time of connection that this type of supply could only be given outside peak load period, and we are therefore implementing restrictions which were foreseen and advised.

The site of your Zealand Street property is now being prepared to house and accommodate the transformers and switching apparatus of the 22,000-volt high tension feeders from North Point generating station to the City. On completion of this building the sub-station equipment will be transferred from your Duddell Street property.

I would again like to pay tribute to the Department of Supplies, Trade & Industry for their co-operation and assistance in arranging coal supplies. They have succeeded in providing an adequate supply of fuel despite difficult conditions.

The cost of fuel has received the earnest consideration of your Board and to make the position clear I would quote that for the last complete year preceding the occupation of the Colony—1940—we paid an average of \$21 per ton delivered to your wharf at North Point. During the year under review the average cost was \$89 per ton—more than four times the 1940 cost. It is hoped that there will be no increase during the current year. I need scarcely add that every avenue is being explored to contact a cheaper supply of fuel.

On behalf of your Directors I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Manager, Staff and Chinese Workmen for their loyal and unflinching good services rendered during the year. Their team work has been admirable.

I would also like to make special reference to Mr. A. J. Langston who has retired from the post of manager after thirty-six years service with the company. Although we are sorry to lose the services of such a valuable manager it is with some satisfaction that I have to report that his connection with the company will still be kept in his appointment as consulting engineer and London Agent. Your Board have appointed Mr. F. F. Duckworth as his successor.

Gentlemen, I now formally propose the adoption of the Accounts as presented for the year ending December 31, 1948 and when this has been seconded I shall be pleased to answer to the best of my ability any questions you may desire to raise.

SECONDER'S SPEECH

Seconding the adoption of the report and statement of accounts, Mr A. S. MacKichan said:

In rising to second the Chairman's proposal I am content that I am expressing the feelings of the shareholders generally in congratulating the Directors and management on the satisfactory results for the period under review, which, having regard to the late delivery of plant, has been a difficult year.

I have noted with interest the commitment for our plant extension and replacements and it seems certain that when the new plant is in commission the restrictions on industrial load over the peak period will be lifted. I believe it is correct to say that the restrictions cover only five hours a day, leaving 19 hours for working. This restriction is less onerous than those obtaining in many parts of the United Kingdom and other places. The building of a Plant Replacement Account is a prudent measure which, I feel sure, will be endorsed by shareholders.

Special reference has been made to our manager, Mr A. J. Langston. We are sorry to learn that he has resigned his post as manager after so many years of service to the Company. I would take this opportunity of welcoming Mr F. F. Duckworth as our new manager. He has

Judge Calls PWD Case A "Scandal"

"The public is entitled to expect that every step will be taken by responsible persons to end forthwith this scandal," said Mr Justice Williams at the Criminal Sessions this morning.

He was passing sentence of three months' hard labour on Kwok Kwong, 47, former PWD foreman, who was found guilty yesterday on three charges of theft by public servant and three of falsification of documents with intent to defraud the Government.

Arthur Frederick May, 41, electrical inspector, grade 1, was found not guilty yesterday and was discharged.

Addressing Kwok, his Lordship said: "Kwok Kwong, you have already been convicted of larceny of Government property. Now you have been convicted of theft of electrical wire and lamps. In the view of the jury the system in force, owing to lack of supervision, gave you every opportunity to be dishonest and invited falsification of accounts."

"I agree in the main with the view of the jury that you were not altogether to blame; a considerable blame lies elsewhere. I therefore propose to sentence you to a short term of imprisonment. The sentence on the first count is three months and on each of the other five counts to run concurrently. The sentence will be served at the expiry of your present sentence."

"I would like to make a few remarks. This case and the previous cases reveal a very grave state of affairs. Property stolen was Government property which is the property of the public."

"Private work was done by Government servants in Government time, paid for by public money and using these stolen materials. The public is entitled to expect that every step will be taken by responsible persons to end forthwith this scandal."

"I would like to pay tribute to the Police officers for the very good work they have done in connection with this and the kindred case, especially the senior Police officer in the Anti-Corruption squad."

"Attacks were made on the Police in this case by some of the defendants—attacks which I consider were completely unfounded. I hope, Mr. Crown Counsel, that you will convey my appreciation to the Police for their work."

Mr A. Hooton (Crown Counsel): I am much obliged, your Lordship. I will gladly do that.

Crown Counsel then informed the Court that he did not propose to offer any evidence against Kwok Kwong on a further indictment and he was accordingly discharged.

Officers to Train in Taiwan

Canton, March 16.—About 1,000 officers from provincial and national military establishments are in Canton awaiting passage to Taiwan, it was learned here today.

The officers, most of whom are in company and field grades, are scheduled for a six-month course in the Central Training Corps. The course is officially described as for political indoctrination as well as military training.—United Press.

given of his best for over 35 years and without doubt is well fitted to manage and to keep our installation to the fore in the way of general efficiency.

Our Chairman, I notice, has made no reference to his impending departure from the Colony after having spent the post-war years so usefully among us. His departure will be a distinct loss to the Colony and in particular to this company.

I am sure Sir, that you have many useful years before you and I feel certain that this meeting will join me in wishing you good health and prosperity in the Homeland or wherever your activities may take you.

I now formally second the adoption of the Report and Statement of Accounts for 1948 as presented to this Meeting.

SHOWING TO-DAY Queens SHOWING TO-DAY

Special Times	At
	2.30
	5.00
	7.15
	9.30

Thrill to matchless music... as she dances between her two loves!

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COLOR BY TECHNICOLOR

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Alfred HITCHCOCK'S

THE 39 STEPS

BY JOHN BUCKMAN

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BYE-ELECTION POLL HEAVY

Sowerby, England, Mar. 16.—Voters thronged the polls in an unexpected last-minute rush which boosted balloting in the Sowerby by-election to an estimated 90 per cent of the electorate.

The Labour Party is favoured to retain its seat for the third consecutive time in the 50th by-election since the sweeping Labour triumph in the 1945 General Elections.

Millworkers flocked to the polls after work to make up for light voting under gray skies earlier in the day.

After the polls closed, the ballot boxes were sealed and delivered to the town police station, where they will be locked in a cell until counting begins.

The result are expected about noon on Thursday.—United Press.

FOR YOUR SPARE MOMENTS

LESSON HAND

McKENNEY ON BRIDGE

Guard Against Bad Trump Distribution

None	W	E	J 1052
AKQ7	N	S	AJ84
KQ752	W	E	1000
108704	N	S	53
AKQ7	W	E	1052
KQ752	N	S	AJ84
108704	W	E	1000
AKQ7	N	S	53

Lesson Hand—Both vul.

South West North East

1 Pass 2 Pass

4 Pass 5 Pass

Opening—♥ K

BY WILLIAM E. MCKENNEY

I AM combining my lesson

hand today with belated

best wishes for a happy and

prosperous 1949 to Mrs. Phyllis

Schellenberg and Harry J. Fish-

bein, who operate the Mayfair

Bridge Club in New York City.

They are always ready and

willing to help raise funds for

our children's cancer ward at

Memorial Hospital. Their club

members furnished the money

to give the children their

Christmas party at the hospital.

In giving me today's lesson

hand, Fishbein said that regrett-

less of how often I publish the

trump distribution that is in

it, even good players slip up on

the proper way to play it. He

wanted to point out today the

importance of where to win

trick number one. In many

cases it does not matter which

difference, but quite often,

where you win the first trick is

the key to winning or losing

the hand.

The opponents win the first

three heart tricks. When East

wins the third trick with the

ace of hearts, he leads back a

club. Where should declarer

win the first club trick? If he

wins it in dummy with the

queen, he will have to cash

the ace of spades and then

lead a small spade but he will

not be able to get into dummy

to pick up East's fourth spade

and he will lose the contract.

Therefore he must win the first

trick in his own hand and con-

serve the entry into dummy.

When declarer wins the first

club trick in his own hand with

the jack, he then leads a spade

to the ace and West shows out.

Now he leads a small spade and

if East plays the ten-spot, de-

clarer wins with the queen, and

he has the club entry into dum-

my to take the other spade

trick.

"Bear in mind," said Fish-

bein, "that if West holds the

four spades to the jack-ten,

you never can pick up all of

the outstanding trumps. But

when you hold this type of

trump distribution, always pro-

vide for a four-nothing break."

DUMB BELLS

REGISTERED U.S. PATENT OFFICE

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ILL MOVE FROM THE PENTHOUSE TO THE GROUND FLOOR!

RECORDED MUSIC

WHAT A CONDUCTOR CAN DO FOR A SCORE

By DELOS SMITH

BY THE WAY

by Beachcomber

Full Story Of The 4-Power Berlin Currency Dispute

U.S. THE ONLY COUNTRY TO REJECT NEUTRAL EXPERTS' PLAN

Geneva, Mar. 16.—The United States alone among the Big Four rejected a plan to break the Berlin currency deadlock, worked out in December by the Security Council's "Neutral" Committee of experts, it was announced tonight. The solution, accepted as a basis for discussion by Britain, the Soviet Union and France, provided for the simultaneous lifting of the blockade and the introduction of the Soviet mark throughout Berlin.

It gave far-reaching de facto autonomy to the city's four sectors to control currency and trade, but proposed an intricate mechanism to preserve the proportion between the issue of the Soviet marks in Berlin and in the Soviet Zone of Germany.

The Committee's report was released simultaneously in Lake Success and Geneva tonight.

The Committee was set up on November 30 last year by Dr Juan Bruch, the Argentine Foreign Minister, who was then President of the Security Council, to find a technical way out of the deadlock on Berlin.

The deadlock became complete when the Soviet Union earlier vetoed a Security Council resolution, which called for the Soviet blockade to be lifted and asked the four occupying powers to consult on a solution for Berlin.

70 MEETINGS

The neutral experts held 70 meetings in Paris and Geneva in a period of six weeks, and finally reported to the President of the Security Council on February 11 that they had not been able to secure the agreement of the four occupying powers to a solution of the Berlin currency and trade problem.

Their report was drawn up by the Chairman, Mr. N.A. Robertson, until recently Canadian High Commissioner in London.

It was disclosed that on December 22, a compromise solution was proposed to the four occupying powers, with the urgent request that they comment on it within 10 days.

The solution gave far-reaching de facto autonomy to the different sections of Berlin in control of currency and trade, with a split banking system, but at the same time proposed an intricate mechanism to preserve the proportion between the issue of Soviet marks in Berlin and in the Soviet Zone.

SOVIET ACCEPTS

The Soviet Union replied within the stipulated time that it accepted the general framework of the proposals as a basis for discussion and agreement.

The three Western powers, having failed to agree on a joint reply to the proposals, asked for extra time. Ten days later, the United States rejected the proposals as "not providing the basis for an equitable or workable solution to the Berlin currency and trade problem."

Britain and France simultaneously sent in identical memoranda, containing detailed amendments to the Committee's proposals and "assuming their general framework."

The United States accompanied its rejection of the Committee's proposals by a memorandum declaring that the split in Berlin had gone too far to make it possible to establish four-power control over currency and trade.

ALTERNATIVE PROPOSAL

The United States, therefore, made an alternative proposal, under which the Soviet mark would be introduced throughout Berlin, but exclusively under Western control in the Western sectors of the city.

The Soviet Union, under this proposal, would have been asked to erect a trade and currency curtain around the Western sectors, in order that the Western issuing of the Eastern mark should not adversely affect the economy of the Soviet occupation areas.

The Soviet Union rejected the American proposals as being outside the Committee's terms of reference, which specified quadripartite control of currency and trade.

After three more weeks of discussion, and by the time the winter session of the Berlin airlift had been assured, the three Western powers agreed to join in rejecting the Committee's proposals and in promoting the United States' plan.

The British, American and French experts jointly added that "if a reunification of the Municipal Administration of Berlin can be achieved," they would be prepared to reconsider the Committee's compromise.

REPORTS FAILURE

The Soviet Union, repeating that there were "no irreconcilable differences" between the Committee's proposals and the Soviet view, again ruled the American plan out of order.

The Committee thereupon gave up its efforts and reported its failure to the President of the Security Council.

All five members of the Committee signed the report, which gave a chronological account of various moves in the compromise efforts. But the Argentine expert, Dr R. Arce, appended a note criticising the Committee for having decided not to try to apportion the blame between the Big Four for the failure of the negotiations.

"I have felt it important that the Committee should enumerate, or attempt to summarise, the discussions and causes which prevented an agreement from being reached," Dr Arce said.

It was understood tonight that Professor Gunnar Myrdal, the noted Swedish economist and Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Europe, who represented the Secretary General of the United Nations on the Committee, has sent Mr. Truscott a full report of the Committee's failure.

No details of this report have been disclosed.

BERLIN REACTIONS

The publication tonight of the report of the Security Council neutral experts' report on the Berlin currency deadlock convinced Berliners that some adjustment of the currency situation in Western Berlin was only a matter of days.

Pro-Western Germans felt that, as there was no immediate hope of a compromise solution of the tangle, the Western Allies would be justified in introducing the Western mark as the sole currency in their sectors.

Both Eastern and Western Berlin financial experts were hard at work today on last-minute plans to deal with the currency change. Armed sentries guarded the offices of the experts.

Leading German financial experts from the Soviet Zone were today summoned to the Soviet headquarters at Karlshorst for emergency discussions on the Berlin currency situation, according to officials of the Soviet Zone Central Financial Administration.

COUNTER-MEASURES

Senior officials of the Soviet-controlled Bank Deutsche Notenbank were reported to have been called to the meeting, including the President, Herr Willy Kuhn, and the Director, Charles Dewey—in claims to be a close relative of Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York State.

They are expected to meet Professor J.A. Minkin, the

Soviet financial expert, who, according to German reports, arrived in Berlin from Moscow on Monday. It is assumed that the meeting is to discuss counter measures to be adopted on the final introduction of the Western mark as the sole currency in West Berlin.

Dr Otto Suhr, Chairman of the Western Berlin City Assembly, today announced that the currency reform in the Western sectors would take place in the very near future. He said he had been authorised to summon a special session of the City Parliament within 24 hours after the announcement of the currency reform. Official reports have made it virtually certain that the changeover will take place before April 1, Berlin observers said.

PHONE LINES CUT

Reports for several days past have suggested that the reform would exclude the Soviet mark and make the Western mark the sole currency for the Western sectors.

Dr Suhr's statement coincided with the publication of the Security Council's "Neutral" Committee's report on its failure to break the Big Four deadlock over the Berlin currency.

In Berlin, the "Western" Post Office today cut the telephone lines of three senior officials of the Soviet-controlled railway zone, although living in the Western sectors, insisted on paying their bills in "Eastern" marks.

A Post Office spokesman said all office lines of the railway zone would be cut off soon if the bills were not paid "correctly."

A barge owned by the "Western" Administration of Berlin, which had been detained for several months in the Soviet sector, "escaped" today as it was passing through the British sector under Russian guard.

The skipper, whose barge was the last of a long convoy, cut the two-rope with a hatchet, and was left behind.—Reuter.

STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE

Shanghai, Mar. 17.—More than 1,000 students and workers of Fudan University staged a parade yesterday afternoon to publicise their "Struggle for Existence" movement, in which they demanded increased subsidies and better living conditions for professors and Government-supported students.

No untoward incidents marked the demonstration, which was held amid strict police precautions. A Garrison spokesman said "any reasonable demand should be steered in the proper legitimate channel," which he explained as the appointment of delegates, either to approach the school authorities or the Government.—Reuter.

World Shortage Of Doctors

Geneva, Mar. 16.—The major part of the world's population needs nearly 12 times more doctors than are available, the World Health Organisation reported today.

WHO revealed that in Africa and Asia, excluding Russia and the Union of South Africa, there is one physician for every 12,000 persons. This area is inhabited by more than half the world's population.

North America, Europe and Russia have one doctor for every 1,200 persons. Latin America, the Union of South Africa, Australia, New Zealand and Japan have an average ratio of one doctor for every 1,700.

The ideal ratio is one doctor for every 1,000—1,500 of population, WHO declared.—United Press.

Waits For Dog's Best Friend



A bedraggled and shivering collie watches a rescue boat go by as he perches atop a tractor in the Missouri river flooded Lake Conrady district. The boat passed the dog up this trip but returned and picked him up later.—AP Picture.

P.I. Discomforted By Red Gains In China

Manila, Mar. 16.—The Congressional committee that studied Communism in the Philippines noted with considerable discomfort the gains of Chinese Communists and warned that "this country can become another China in a shorter time than we care to admit" if the Red problem is neglected.

The House Committee on Un-Filipino Activities said that the situation in China today should not be the cause of "hopeless dismay," adding that "internal aggression rather than external invasion is the immediate threat to this republic from the Communists."

"The victory of the Communists there (China) cannot but provide a certain degree of inspiration on the part of our local Communists," GUFA reported. "In fact, this country may expect the intensification of the Hukbalahap activities and the development of political pressure from quarters accessible to the Communists, if not from the Communists themselves."

The Hukbalahap is a peasant organisation which was started during the war ostensibly to fight the Japanese. The committee called it a Communist front organisation in its report, which recommended immediate prosecution of all Communist party members in the Philippines.

POSITION CLEAR

CUFA thought that if the Communists could be stated here for 20 years, there would be no danger of a Red invasion. It said the Chinese Communists could not consolidate their forces in less than 20 years' time.

The report asserted that India, Burma, Siam, Malaya and French Indo-China were "encircled" for Red domination by infiltration and internal aggression. It said that the Philippines' position was "clear and uncompromised" in relation to these countries and that she "need not submit to Communist pressure inside our national territory."

The Committee referred to the United States as "the rallying point of all free nations that have not yet been dragged either by intrigues or by force into the orbit of the Soviet Union." It added that Communist attacks on relations between the Philippines and the United States were "all lies, and warned the Communists and sympathisers that they have no business meddling in the affairs of the two countries."

Although the Philippines has never extended formal recognition to the Soviet Union, CUFA gave its support to the Philippine delegation in the United Nations for "its capable stand in maintaining high level friendly intercourse with the Soviet Union despite the Philippines' uncompromising attitude toward the ideology and practices of Communism and the Communist Party."

The Committee questioned the sincerity of Premier Josep Stalin when he invited President Truman to a "peace" talk.—United Press.

Shanghai's Telephone Troubles

No Funds For New Equipment

Shanghai, Mar. 17.—The most perturbed person in Shanghai today is the fellow making a telephone call. When he picks up the receiver he is forced to wait—sometimes as long as 30 minutes—before he gets a dial tone.

Often he waits so long he forgets the number he was going to call—and even the reason for the call.

The fellow with a battery of telephones on his desk will pick up two receivers even when he wants to make only a single call. He's not going to pass up any possibility of quickly getting a dial tone.

Some have advanced the suggestion that offices hire coolies just to sit and listen for dial tones. They think it would save a lot of valuable time.

CAN'T AFFORD EQUIPMENT

The situation is bad and Mr. W.F. Flinley, general manager of the Shanghai Telephone company, admits it. But he says it is not likely to improve very soon.

The purchase of new equipment so the burden can be taken off present lines is the only solution to the problem, says Mr. K.W. Johnstone, general commercial manager of the telephone company.

But, he adds, the company has no money for this.

At present the company had 22,000 phones on its exchange network. It has applications for 23,000 more but sees no chance of filling them because of the lack of equipment.

There are more than 6,000 phones on private lines and an uncounted number of requests for more. But again there's the question of where to get the necessary equipment.

For a while, at least, it looks as if phone-users are just going to have to wait their turn for a dial tone.—Associated Press.

No Hunting For Heads

London, Mar. 16.—Head hunting, a passion among certain inhabitants of Sarawak 100 years ago and since suppressed, was aroused with the outbreak of war and several hundred Japanese lost their heads in the traditional manner, said the annual report on the colony for 1947, published by the Stationery Office today.

"The passion to kill is more easily kindled than quenched, and it would not have been surprising if those who had assumed head hunting or for the first time experienced the excitement of it, had been reluctant to cease," the report says.

"But, in fact, not one case was reported during the year." Sarawak, which became a British colony on July 1, 1946, has no public debt. The aggregate value of Sarawak's external trade for 1947 was \$175,393,280, as compared with \$78,415,500 in 1946. Exports exceeded imports by \$30,833,670.

An important item of revenue, \$204,000—arose from the sale of the issue of Sarawak stamps, overprinted with the Royal Cypher, to dealers.—Reuter.

NOTICE

THE REFORM CLUB OF HONGKONG

THE SECOND PUBLIC MEETING will be held at the West Lounge, European Y.M.C.A., Kowloon, on Thursday, 24th March, 1949, at 6 p.m.



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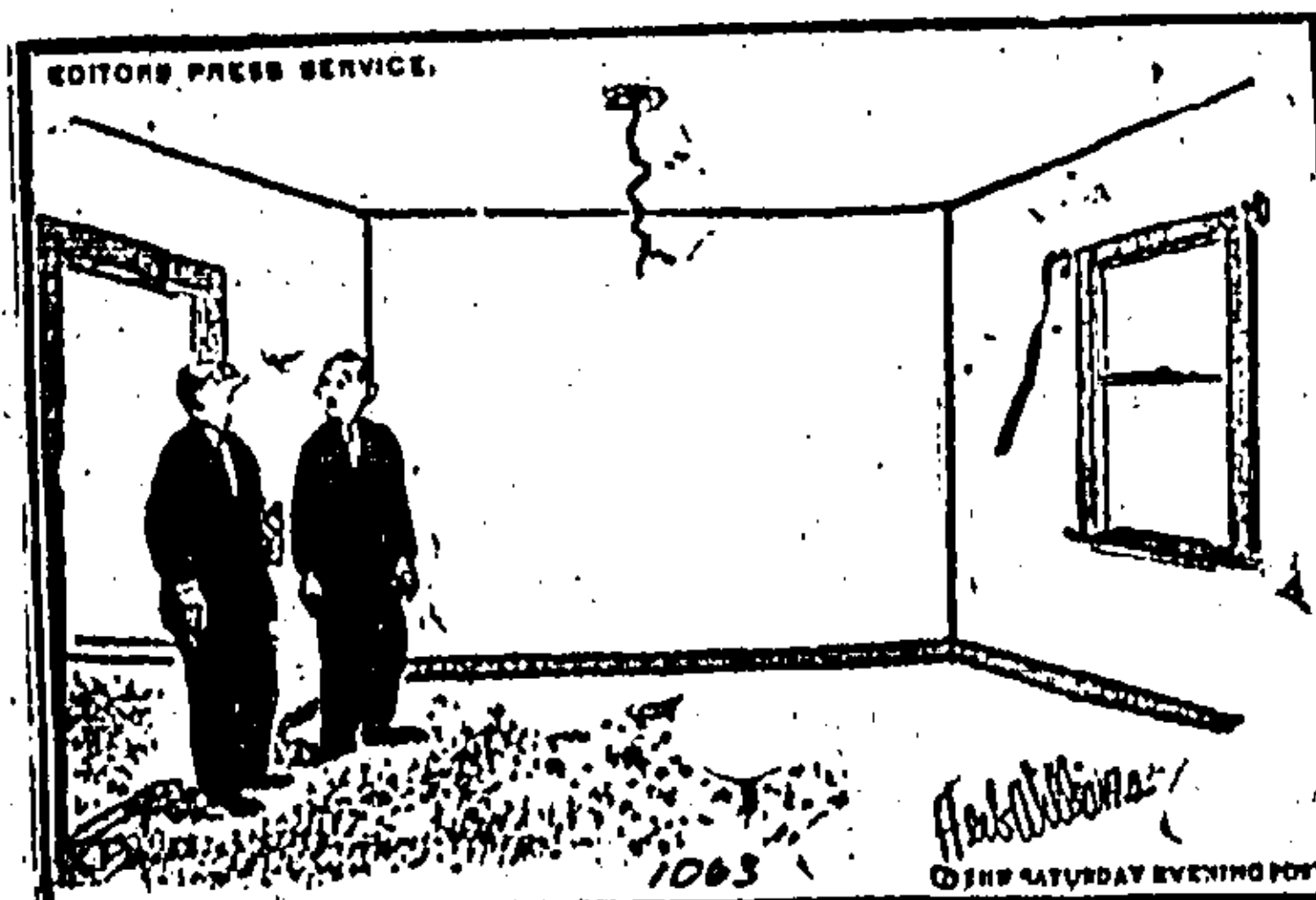
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